

Gwent Wildlife Trust

Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gwent



ANNUAL REVIEW 2014-2015



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future
*Gwarchod **Natur** ar gyfer y Dyfodol*



Chairman's Introduction

I have great pleasure in presenting this Annual Report to you all. You may remember that at last year's AGM Dave Richards, the retiring Chair, presented a new strategy which identified that the Trust's

primary purposes were to be **To Conserve, To Inspire, To Influence** and to have good **Governance**. I'm pleased to say that, combined with the restructuring of the Trust into **Living Landscape** teams, this approach is already starting to operate well.

Just to give a few examples of GWT's work:- in the Usk to Wye Landscape, habitat creation work is being undertaken along stretches of the River Trothy which will eventually cover and **conserve** over 10 hectares; in the Gwent Levels Living Landscape, our Education staff continue to **inspire** thousands of children, young people and adults; in the Eastern Valleys Landscape, we are **influencing** the work of the 3 County Councils in the Landscape area as we work in partnership with them in a Welsh Government

funded Upland Partnership; and in our **governance** we have created 2 Advisory Committees where staff and trustees discuss Operational and Resource issues and present their recommendations to the Council. These have only recently started and should improve the way Council gathers information and makes informed decisions.

We have had some frustrations during the year around the issues of the proposed M4 Southern by-pass around Newport and the proposed race circuit above Ebbw Vale, but I am immensely proud of the way our dedicated and hard-working staff presented the Environmental case for both of these issues. In both issues, I know, GWT will continue to present the case for the protection of our Environment and wildlife at every possible opportunity.

We have benefitted from some generous legacies during this period but income continues to be a cause for concern. It is here that I want to thank all of our members for their continued support, our volunteers for their dedication and our staff for their passion and hard work. Without all of us working together GWT would not be able to be the voice for wildlife and our world would be a poorer place.

Richard Waller
Chairman, Gwent Wildlife Trust

GWT Achievements 2014/15

2014-15 has been another very productive year for Gwent Wildlife Trust. Alongside our internal shift towards a landscape area structure, our fantastic team of staff and volunteers have been working hard to enhance the prospects for Gwent's wildlife and our local communities:

- In March 2014 the team based at the **Environmental Resource Centre (ERC)** in Ebbw Vale began the second phase of the People and Wildlife Project, funded by BIG Lottery People and Places with match funding provided through the Cooperative Welsh Wildlife Heroes grants.
- The **ERC team** have also been delivering work through the Nature Fund that adds to the development of the Living Landscape Plan for the Eastern Valleys. The main focus of the team is to pilot approaches to landscape scale conservation that leads to increased biodiversity, better connected habitats and increased resilience and self-reliance of local communities.
- As part of our **Trothy Project**, funding from Natural Resources Wales enabled GWT to undertake an Opportunity Mapping exercise on the Trothy catchment identifying priority sites for habitat creation. As a result of this activity NRW provided additional funding of £20,000 towards habitat creation in the Trothy catchment. The funding was used to create over 5 hectares of orchards, woodlands and meadows.
- The national Biffa funded **Coronation Meadows Project** supported GWT's aim to create wildflower rich meadows at Wyeswood Common. Seed and green hay were harvested from our New Grove Meadow reserve and spread on 18 hectares of land by volunteers at Wyeswood. The funding also supported extensive fencing installation and stone work around water troughs.
- For our partnership work with **Ty Mawr Convent** in Monmouthshire, GWT was successful in a bid for Biffa Award Funding. Over the next 18 months the funding will be used to repair and replace fencing, repair drystone walls, manage hedgerows, install water troughs, run training courses and undertake events and activities. The work has also allowed us to extend our land management partnership with the Convent for a further decade.
- The Water Vole Re-introduction Project at **Magor Marsh**

continues to be very successful with pre-winter surveys showing the population is thriving not just at Magor but voles are being seen far beyond the confines of the Nature Reserve, and a network of dedicated volunteers continue to monitor the mink population in the surrounding area.

- Gwent Wildlife Trust and NRW funded a project on the Gwent Levels targeting the management of private **field ditch works**. Two landowners received grants to support removal of tall trees and scrub that had dominated field ditches on their land shading out the unique marginal and aquatic biodiversity that can be found on the Gwent Levels.
- GWT received funding through the Nature Fund to continue our **Local Wildlife Sites** work in the Eastern Valleys area. We have been working with landowners, providing management advice and carrying out botanical surveys.
- Our **Otter Project** successfully installed an otter ledge in Blaenau Gwent working with the highways team. Funded by Co-op and a private donor, the ledge will hopefully prevent further otter deaths at this high otter mortality hotspot by providing an alternative route to crossing the road when the River Ebbw is in flood.
- Our **Derek Upton Education Centre** at Magor Marsh continues to thrive with some months seeing over 300 children visiting the reserve. We are also teaching teachers through our INSET courses now and the Centre can be hired for meetings when not in use by the school groups. In addition our weekly Wildlife Warriors group (aged 10-18) goes from strength to strength with a waiting list now.
- **Membership** numbers have dropped slightly over the year to just over 9,000 members, although income remains at an even level. Our membership continues to support us via our Grand Summer Raffle, through donations and legacies, by giving generously when we called to upgrade by telephone and by supporting GWT at our events. We'd like to say a big thank you to all our members.
- We had another successful year of **fundraising**, with a great Race for Wildlife and an extreme Silent Valley Challenge. Well done to everyone who helped or took part. We'd also like to welcome three new staff to the team – a PR & Communications Officer, a Senior Fundraising & Partnerships Officer, and a Membership Support Officer.

Ian Rappel CEO

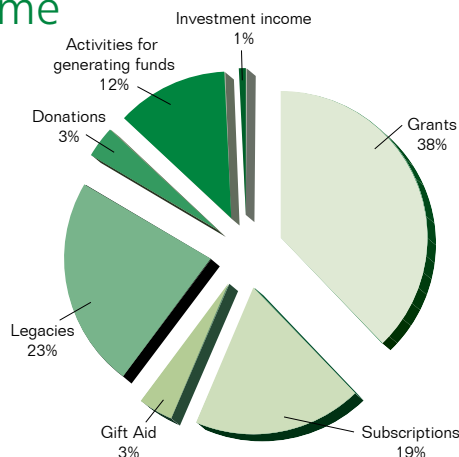
Summary of the Schedule to the Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31st March 2015

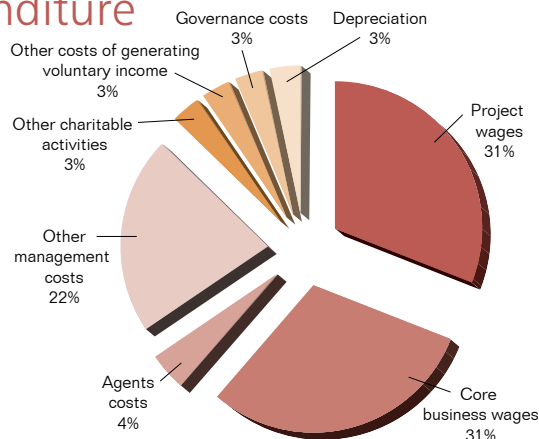
INCOMING RESOURCES	£
Grants	400,406
Subscriptions	197,116
Gift Aid	40,360
Legacies	246,582
Donations	36,824
Activities for generating funds	130,336
Investment income	8,097
Gifted assets	0
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	1,059,721

RESOURCES EXPENDED	£
Project wages	251,832
Core business wages	247,489
Agents costs	33,833
Other management costs	176,871
Other charitable activities	25,820
Other cost of generating voluntary income	25,584
Governance costs	24,947
Depreciation	27,621
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	813,997

Income



Expenditure



Abbreviated Balance Sheet AS AT 31st March 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,325,610	1,318,687
Current assets		
Debtors	44,089	60,807
Cash at bank	449,539	200,058
Total current assets	493,628	260,865
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	-5,325	-11,363
Net Current Assets	488,303	249,502
Total assets less current liabilities	1,813,913	1,568,189
Distribution of Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	228,890	249,315
Restricted funds	1,585,023	1,318,874
Total Funds	1,813,913	1,568,189

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The accounts here are a summary of information extracted from the statutory Financial Statements which were approved by the Trustees on 27th July 2015. The full statutory Annual Report and Financial Statements will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and submitted to the Charity Commission. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. A copy of the full accounts is available from our registered office on request.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees Fay Mansell Honorary Secretary
31st July 2015

AUDITORS' STATEMENT

In our opinion, these summarised accounts are consistent with the full statutory accounts on which we have reported with an unqualified opinion.

UHY Hacker Young Auditor 1st August 2015
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors,
Lanyon House, Mission Court, Newport, NP20 2DW

Gwent Wildlife Trust Objectives:

Our VISION is for people close to nature, in a landscape rich in wildlife
Our MISSION is to champion nature conservation and inspire people about wildlife in Gwent

We will do this by:

Being passionate leaders and natural partners

whose objectives are to:

Demonstrate how nature works

Inspire people and communities to value and take action for nature

Champion nature and our work

and to enable this by:

Growing our resources through inspiring people to value our work

Knowledge sharing, cooperation, flexibility and effectiveness

Ensuring excellent governance

Gwent Wildlife Trust – Who's Who as at 1st June 2015

Roger James	President
Martin Anthony	Vice-President
Trevor Evans	Vice-President
Mary Field	Vice-President
David Leat	Vice-President
Rodney Morris	Vice-President
David Parsons	Vice-President
David Richards	Vice-President
Stephanie Tyler	Vice-President

GWT Council

Richard Waller	Chairman	Huw Evans	Trustee
Robert Waller	Vice Chair	Chris Hatch	Trustee
Alison Willott	Vice Chair	Julia James	Trustee
Fay Mansell	Hon Secretary	Steve Williams	Trustee
Norman Williams	Hon Treasurer	David Jones	Co-opted
Paul Cawley	Trustee	Mike Kilner	Co-opted

GWT Staff

Ian Rappel	Chief Executive
Kay Rymer	Administration / Finance Manager
Leigh Danziger	Administration / Finance & Membership Officer
Rachael Daniels	Membership & Fundraising Manager
Martyn Wright	Senior Membership Recruitment Officer
Debbie Stenner	Senior Fundraising Partnership Officer
Annette Murray	Projects and Partnerships Development Officer
Dipti Patel	Membership Support Officer
Julian Vallance	PR & Communications Officer
Sorrel Jones	Conservation Officer
Lindi Rich	Conservation Officer
Veronika Brannovic	Eastern Valleys Living Landscape Manager
Anthony Cook	Eastern Valleys Project Support Officer
Anna Guzzo	Eastern Valleys Welsh Wildlife Heroes Officer
Rebecca Ward	Eastern Valleys Learning Officer
Tom Eyles	Eastern Valleys Reserves Officer
Chris Reed	Eastern Valleys Assistant Reserves Officer
Liz Winstanley	Eastern Valleys Assistant Learning Officer
Gemma Bodé	Gwent Levels Living Landscape Manager
Alice Rees	Water Vole Project Officer
Kathy Barclay	Magor Marsh Community Wildlife Education Officer
Petra Mitchard	Magor Marsh Community Wildlife Education Officer
Richard Bakere	Reserves Officer
Charlene Davies	Assistant Conservation Officer
Andrew Nixon	Usk to Wye Living Landscape Manager
Jan Kinchington	Reserves Officer
Tim Green	Farm & Wildlife Development Officer
Andrew Karran	Local Wildlife Sites Officer

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 52nd Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 16th September 2015 at the Glen Yr Afon House Hotel, Pontypool Road, Usk. Following a break for refreshments, there will be a presentation by David Jenkins from Coed Cymru, who will be speaking on 'Woodlands, Industry and the South Wales Valleys'

David Jenkins is a longstanding member of Coed Cymru and has a deep and passionate understanding of the interrelationship between woodlands and the industrial heritage of the South Wales Valleys.

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome
2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM and matters arising
3. To receive the Annual Report of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2015
4. To receive the Annual Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2015
5. To appoint Auditors of the charity to hold office until the conclusion of the next General Meeting at which the accounts are laid before the charity
6. To elect Trustees of Gwent Wildlife Trust (see note 2 below)
7. To elect the Officers of the Council of Trustees, including President and Patron for 2015/16
8. Presentation

By order of Council 31st July 2015

Fay Mansell, Hon Secretary

NOTES

1 The following papers can be inspected at the AGM or obtained from the GWT office or on-line from info@gwentwildlife.org:

- Minutes of 51st AGM on 17th September 2014.
- The full statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015.

2 Trustee Recruitment

Nominations from any GWT members wishing to become a trustee will be welcomed.

GWT Council will give consideration to the skills and qualities which are particularly sought to provide the best balance to the Trust's governing Council. The Chairman, Hon Secretary and Chief Executive would be pleased to discuss this with any members interested in becoming a trustee. Please contact the Secretary at the Trust Office in writing by 31st August 2015.



Fairy Parasol (Jane Corey)



Photo course (L Danziger)



Hedgehog (R Price)



Water Vole (Andy Karran)



Front cover photographs: Main image – Spider Web (Vic Shiner); Great Crested Newt (Kevin Caster); Tufted Hair Grass (Amanda Jones); Brown hare (Amy Lewis); Moorhen – Monmouth & Brecon Canal (Stephen Shutt); Silent Valley (Jane Corey)
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